

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

04/05/2012 04:05 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest 4/5/12

OPA Daily Digest for 4/5/12

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Letter – St. John's Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Project. Due: 4/17/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Letter – Constituent questions about the Lead RRP Rule. Due: 4/11/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Chuck Grassley (Iowa) – Letter – 3/28/12: Requesting information on a mandated wastewater treatment upgrade in Lone Rock. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Tom Harkin (Iowa) – Call – 3/28/12: Questions on mandated upgrades to wastewater treatment plant in Dyersville. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Ben Nelson (Neb) – Call – 3/30/12: Requesting EPA meeting with Back to the River. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Adrian Smith (Neb) – Meeting – 4/5/12: Requesting information on CAFO inspections. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Inside EPA – Dave Reynolds – 4/4/12: Questions about West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Air Pollution Control Magazine – Dominick DalSanto – 4/4/12: Questions about Notice of Violation issued to Grain Processing Corporation, Inc., of Muscatine, Iowa. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Scottsbluff (Neb.) Star-Herald – Maunette Loeks-Van Patten – 4/5/12: Questions about EPA's proposal to connect residence in Hillredge Addition of Scottsbluff, Neb., to the city's water system. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Environmental Stories:

The Wichita Eagle - Sedgwick County Commission votes to participate in \$1.5 million planning grant - 4/5/12 - Sedgwick County commissioners followed several hours of passionate debate and public input by voting 3-2 Wednesday to give final approval for the county's participation in a federal grant for planning sustainable communities.

<http://www.kansas.com/2012/04/04/2282847/sedgwick-county-commission-to.html>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Broken pipe sends giant steam plume over downtown St. Louis (video) -

4/5/12 - A broken pipe sent a giant plume of steam up in downtown St. Louis this morning. A company called Trigen-St. Louis Energy Corp. is responsible for the system of steam pipes. Workers at about 7:15 a.m. told firefighters at the scene that they were shutting down the valve that supplies the steam to that part of downtown.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/broken-pipe-sends-giant-steam-plume-over-downtown-st-louis/article_9f2aef3e-7f19-11e1-b196-0019bb30f31a.html

Wichita Business Journal - BP's Kansas wind farm moving into full construction - 4/4/12 - BP Wind Energy on Wednesday announced that its Flat Ridge 2 wind farm project in southcentral Kansas has moved into full construction.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2012/04/04/bps-kansas-wind-farm-moving-into-full.html>

Des Moines Register - Nuclear plant's problems to get public discussion - 4/5/12 - The public will get another chance to learn more about the repairs being made to the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant when federal regulators return next Wednesday for another meeting.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120405/NEWS/304050072/1001/>

The Kansas City Star - KCP&L parent partnering on transmission line project - 4/4/12 - Great Plains Energy is partnering with American Electric Power, one of the nation's largest electric utility companies, to build high-voltage transmission lines.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/04/04/3535664/kcpl-parent-partnering-on-transmission.html>

Domestic Fuel - Updated Alternative Fuel Locator Maps Online - 4/5/12 - MapMuse has released updated interactive Alternative Fuel Locator Maps that identify where consumers can fill up with alternative fuels. The maps feature stations that sell biodiesel, E85, propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), hydrogen, liquified natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and electric charging stations.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2012/04/05/updated-alternative-fuel-locator-maps-online/>

Wall Street Journal - Killing Coal: So much for an 'all of the above' energy strategy. - 4/4/12 - For three years EPA has imposed a de facto ban on new coal-fired power while doing everything it can to harm existing coal plants. But for once there's something good to say about the latest EPA carbon rule: At least the agency was less devious when it formalized the coal ban last week.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303404704577311883690893086.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Huffington Post - How EPA Can Balance Economic Development and Environmental Justice for the World's Poor - 4/4/12 - The recent success of the viral video "Kony2012" reminded Americans of just how precarious the lives of so many millions of Africans are today. While the continent has made great progress recently, for too many residents their future is marked by poverty, conflict, lack of opportunity, and starvation, particularly for Africa's women and children.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eva-m-clayton/africa-palm-oil_b_1400879.html

Wall Street Journal - Marathon Agrees To Limit Pollution In Clear Air Act Settlement - 4/5/12 - The U.S. Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency said Marathon Petroleum Corp. (MPC) agreed to reduce air pollution from all six of the company's petroleum refiners as part of a settlement over alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. Marathon has agreed to new controls on combustion devices known as flares and to a cap on the volume of waste gas it will send to its flares. Marathon, headquartered in Findlay, Ohio, will also pay a civil penalty of \$460,000.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120405-711283.html>

CNBC - Iowa judge upholds 2010 water quality rule - 4/5/12 - An Iowa judge has upheld water quality regulations that business and farm groups say are costly and burdensome. The rules require anyone with new or expanded wastewater discharges into waterways to go through a review process and seek permits and certification from the state.

<http://www.cnn.com/id/46967617>

Delta Farm Press - Ethanol, corn groups applaud EPA E15 approval - 4/5/12 - The ethanol industry and National Corn Growers Association are pleased with the EPA's April 2 approval of E15 (gasoline with 15 percent ethanol) as a registered fuel. "Our nation needs E15 to reduce our dependence on foreign oil - it will keep gas prices down at the pump and help to end the extreme fluctuations in gas prices caused by our reliance on fuel from unstable parts of the world," said Tom Buis, CEO of Growth Energy.
<http://deltafarmpress.com/corn/ethanol-corn-groups-applaud-epa-e15-approval>

Hydrocarbon Processing - US trade groups slam EPA for E15 decision, citing risk to consumers - 4/5/12 - The American Petroleum Institute (API) and American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) trade groups are critical of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent decision to approve higher levels of ethanol in gasoline (E15) before testing is complete, alleging that it could put consumers at risk.
<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3007996/Latest-News/US-trade-groups-slam-EPA-for-E15-decision-citing-risk-to-consumers.html>

The Hill - Green groups sue EPA to force coal-waste rules - 4/5/12 - Green groups are suing the Environmental Protection Agency to force completion of long-planned national regulations to govern disposal of so-called coal ash, a waste product from power plants.
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/220179-green-groups-sue-epa-to-force-coal-waste-rules>

Daily Markets - Railroads Hit By Coal Concerns - 4/4/12 - After lower coal production forecasts by U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), railroads are again worried about the proposed regulation by EPA for power plants across 27 states.
<http://www.dailymarkets.com/stock/2012/04/04/railroads-hit-by-coal-concerns/>

E&E News TV - American Water Works' Curtis says safety and accessibility at risk due to aging infrastructure - 4/5/12 - Are public safety and health at risk due to the nation's aging water infrastructure? Tom Curtis, deputy executive director at the American Water Works Association, discusses a new report outlining recommendations for Congress on how best to address the country's water infrastructure. <http://www.eenews.net/tv/rss/2012/04/05/>

E&E News PM - 17 enforcement programs facing budget knife -- internal documents - 4/4/12 - In response to looming fiscal 2013 budget cuts, U.S. EPA is considering limiting its asbestos enforcement efforts in schools to only the most egregious violations and cutting back on criminal stormwater and vessel pollution cases. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/04/04/1>

E&E News PM - 'Lisa Jackson shot us,' UMWA president says of greenhouse gas rule - 4/4/12 - The United Mine Workers of America president used strong language yesterday to slam U.S. EPA's proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants.
<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/04/04/2>

ClimateWire - Nuclear power helped leading nations reduce CO2 -- study - 4/5/12 - Sweden has dialed down its carbon intensity further than any other country, driven largely by a national push for nuclear energy, a new study finds. France, Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom also lead the pack among nations lowering the rate of CO2 produced per unit of economic activity by big government pushes. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2012/04/05/5>

E&E News PM - GAO faults Pentagon rules for financing green-power projects - 4/4/12 - As the Defense Department undertakes sweeping plans to install renewable energy generation projects at military bases, it lacks effective rules for guaranteeing it gets the best deal, according to a new government audit. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2012/04/04/3>

E&E News - 'City of the Big Shoulders' struggles against Mother Nature - 4/4/12 - This largest of American lakefront cities has long relied on feats of engineering to keep its sewage away from Lake Michigan, its primary freshwater resource and recreational crown jewel.
<http://www.eenews.net/public/climatewire/2012/04/04/1>

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (release) - Groups File Federal Coal Ash Lawsuit | EPA has failed to complete rulemaking for important national safeguards - 4/5/12 - Environmental and public health groups will file a lawsuit today in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, to force EPA to complete its rulemaking process and finalize public health safeguards against toxic coal ash.
http://www.cleanenergy.org/index.php?/Press-Update.html?form_id=8&item_id=285

Inside EPA - EPA Plan To Pare Back Enforcement Due To Tight Budget Spurs Backlash - 4/4/12 - EPA is planning "disinvestments" in its enforcement office that would significantly cut back on enforcement of biosolids rules and criminal stormwater cases among other key areas.
<http://insideepa.com/201204042395092/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-plan-to-pare-back-enforcement-due-to-tight-budget-spurs-backlash/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Few Coal Projects May Be Helped By EPA's GHG Rule Exemptions - 4/4/12 - Utilities or other power plant developers are uncertain whether they will qualify for EPA's proposal to exempt over a dozen "transitional" coal-fired power plant projects from the agency's greenhouse gas (GHG) new source performance standard (NSPS) if project construction begins by early next year.
<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201204042395040/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/few-coal-project-s-may-be-helped-by-epas-ghg-rule-exemptions/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Climate Study: Natural Gas 'Worthless' (blog) - 4/4/12 - A new study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters finds that transitioning from coal-fired electricity generation to a system powered by natural gas will do little to avert global warming in the long run.
<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201204042395003/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Blogging-Clean-Energy/climate-study-natural-gas-worthless/menu-id-204.html>

BNA - About 35 Renewable Energy Projects Completed on Blighted Land, EPA Says - 4/5/12 - To date, about 35 renewable energy projects have been completed on brownfields or other contaminated land, according to EPA. The agency said that as it gathers data on completed projects and those under development, the information is posted on its RE-Powering America's Land initiative website at
<http://epa.gov/renewableenergyland>.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=25778578&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1j0f0c7&split=0

BNA - Abundant Resources, Politics Cause U.S. To Lag in Renewables Race, Researcher Says - 4/5/12 - The United States risks falling behind in the clean energy race unless it considers the total costs of traditional energy sources and adopts policies to encourage investment in renewables, a policy researcher said April 4.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=25778581&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1j0g2b8&split=0

BNA - Defense Department Needs Better Guidance, Information Sharing for Renewable Financing - 4/5/12 - The Defense Department, which has nearly 600 renewable energy projects either completed or in the pipeline, needs a comprehensive approach for analyzing the most cost-effective methods for financing such projects, the Government Accountability Office said April 4.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=25778583&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1j0m6k6&split=0

BNA - State Waste Regulators Call Inspector General Report on Enforcement 'Misleading' - 4/5/12 - State waste regulators say a report from EPA's Office of Inspector General that was critical of state enforcement efforts presented a "misleading assessment" of hazardous waste oversight programs.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=25778574&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1h9x3h7&split=0

BNA - EPA Advisory Board Asked to Review Cost-Benefit Study of Five Agency Rules - 4/5/12 - EPA has launched a review of five existing regulations dating to 1998 in hopes of improving the accuracy

of its regulatory cost estimates as well as the methodologies for determining whether the benefits of its rules outweigh their costs.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=25778580&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d1j0f6p7&split=0

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

Consent Order for Groundwater Remedy Implementation, Harcros Chemicals Site, Davenport, Scott County, Iowa – 4/5/12 – Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

4/10/12 – Meet with Gwendolyn Grant, President and CEO of Urban League of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

4/12/12 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), Science and Technology Center. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

4/12/12 - Park Reopening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Parkville Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

4/13/12 – Meet with Joanne Dean, US Postal Service, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

4/17/12 – OCSPP Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Toni Gargas, 7193

***4/17/12** – Meet with Judith Enck, RA for Region 2, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***4/17/12** – Meet with Geoff Jolley, District Director for U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Regional Office. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555, and Julia Cacho, 7071

4/18/12 – Visit University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560, Julia Cacho, 7071

4/18/12 – Meet and Greet with Ronnie Green, Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

4/24/12 – Washington University Environmental Policy Course, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253, and Julia Cacho, 7071

***4/26/12** – Visit Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

***4/26/12** – Radio Interview with Eric Atkinson, K-State, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560, Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/3/12 – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Energy and Environment Council Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Becky Weber, 7487 and Julia Cacho, 7071

5/8/12 – St. Regis Catholic School Wetlands Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/9/12 – Meet with Mayor Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557, Julia Cacho,

7071

5/10/12 – Meet with Mayor Roy Buol, Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557, Julia Cacho, 7071

5/31/12 – Chemicals Commodities, Inc. Celebration Event, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

***6/19/12** – National Congress of American Indians Mid Year Conference, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381, Julia Cacho, 7071

***7/16-17/12** – Spring Budget Forum, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***7/18/12** – National Tribal Operations Committee, Washington DC. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381, Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

4/9-11/12 - Attend Spring Hypoxia Meeting, Memphis, Tenn. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

4/18/12 - Visit University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

4/23-4/26/12 - Attend Spring EMC Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

4/24/12 - Attend Heartland Manure Management Meeting, St. Joe, Mo. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

***4/26/12** - Visit Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Damon Frizzell, 7560

5/9/12 - Meet with Mayor Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/10/12 - Meet with Mayor Roy Buol, Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***6/5 -7/12** - Attend Kansas Geological Survey 2012 Field Conference, Norton/Colby/Goodland, Kan. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

4/16-19/2012 - Participating in the 26th annual BioCycle West Coast Conference, Portland, Oregon. Contact: Gayle Hubert, 7439

4/19/2012 - Participation in Sprint Earth Day Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Craig Bernstein, 7688

4/23/2012 - Participation in Sac and Fox Earth Event, Horton, Kan. Contact: Gina Grier, 7078

4/26/12 – Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) outreach to Sunbelt Environmental, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647

5/1/2012 - RCRA 101 Presentation to the Iowa Strategic Goals Program, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Jim Aycock, 7

5/10/2012 - Participation in Earth Day event at Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Contact: Craig Bernstein, 7688.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

4/23/12 - Sac and Fox of Missouri Tribe Earth Day, Reserve, Kan. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

4/24/12 - Carter Carburetor Roundtable Discussion (rescheduled from 4/3/12), St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Pamela Johnson, 7480

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

4/9/12 – Public Availability Session in Grand Island, Neb., regarding the Parkview Wells Superfund Site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

5/8/12 – Public Meeting in Grand Island, Neb., regarding new Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period for Cleburn Street Well Site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

4/5- 6/12 - State Emergency Management Agency Conference, Branson, Mo. Contact: John Frey, x7994

4/10-12/12 - Oil Program Manager's meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/17-19/12 - Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

4/20/12 - Earth Day Outreach with Mobile Command Post, Delaware Ridge Elementary School, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: John Frey, 7994

4/23/12 - Conduct training and outreach to Turner High School girls on oil spill cleanups as part of a careers in science and engineering grant awarded to the Girl Scouts of America in Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630

5/1-3/12 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, location TBD, Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

WWPD

4/9/12 - Presentation on Local Limits and Enforcement to Iowa Pretreatment Coordinators, Ankeny, Iowa. Contact: Paul Marshall, 7419

4/10-11/12 - Missouri's Green Infrastructure Workshop, Joplin, Mo. Contact: Kerry Herndon, 7286

4/11-12/12 - 4-State Drinking Water Administrator meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Mary Mindrup, 7431

4/17-19/12 - National TMDL/303(d) Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067

4/17-19/12 - Nebraska permits review, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Kimberly Hill, 7841, Michael Boeglin, 7252

4/23-24/12 - Missouri State Revolving Fund review, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Nancy Healy, 7713, Judy Novak, 7360, Tanya Nix, 7170

4/23-25/12 - Region 7 hosts National EPA Managers Underground Injection Control meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Mary Mindrup, 7431

4/24-25/12 - Heartland Animal Manure Management Workshop, St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

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